

I

AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

for the

YEAR 1969

Medical Officer of Health - - G.R.THORPE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor -

J.P.MEARS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

To THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The health of the community was satisfactory during the year and no unusual problems of health occurred.

The figures given in the statistics remain satisfactory and follow the usual pattern. The figures on deaths show a tendency for the population to live to a greater age, as diseases which once killed in early life are now largely under control and the expectation of life is longer. This results in a higher proportion of elderly persons in the community and this trend can be expected to continue. A problem thus occurs in the welfare of old people. Many elderly people live on their own and as age advances they find it more and more difficult to cope with everyday events. Shopping and cooking become a burden and there is a tendency to become apathetic and neglect their health. Often their home is now too large for them to keep in order and dirt and rubbish accumulates. Special small accommodation, grouped in a community under the supervision of a warden, gives the elderly a sense of independence, while assistance is available in an emergency. Bungalows and flats should be specially designed to eliminate any hazards for the infirm and handicapped, ramps replacing steps prevent stumbling. Those who are incapable of looking after themselves find care and security in old persons homes and the need for these is ever increasing.

It is found that many elderly persons are unaware of the Welfare facilities available for their assistance and others are reluctant to seek help, feeling that it is charity, and pride prevents them from accepting help. When the aged find that people are still interested in them and their welfare a considerable improvement in their well-being often occurs. The care of the aged puts a great strain on the man-power of the welfare services as the number of cases requiring assistance grows daily.

Complaints are received from time to time regarding noise and atmospheric pollution by fumes from industrial premises. Development of industry in an area often means a certain amount of noise and fumes and every effort is made to ensure that these are kept to a minimum and that there is no risk to health. Equally important is the prevention of water pollution. It is very convenient for industry to discharge its waste products into a river, but this frequently results in the death of plant life and fish in the river and a pleasant amenity becomes a glorified drain. Problems are also magnified when the water requires treatment when it is to be used for domestic water supplies. It is very necessary that a close watch is kept on the prevention of pollution of our rivers.

I am grateful to you, Madam Chairman, and to the Members of the Council for your interest in the work of the Health Department and to all members of the staff for their support.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G.R. THORPE,

Medical Officer of Health.

AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1969

1. OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health - G.R.THORPE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor,
Public Health Inspector
and Housing Manager. - J.P.MEARS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

2. GENERAL STATISTICS RELATING TO THE DISTRICT

Area (Census 1961) 1,904 Acres.

Population -

Census for 1961 3,854

Registrar General's estimate of
home population, mid year 1969. .. 5,100

Number of inhabited houses 1,748


Rateable Value £204,934

Sum represented by Penny Rate (to 31.3.70) £805

The Registrar General's estimate for the mid-year population was 5,100, an increase of 130 over the figure for 1968. Live births remained the same at 91, which gives an adjusted birth rate of 13.2 per 1,000 population, compared with 16.3 per 1,000 population for England and Wales. It is of interest to note that births did not exceed deaths this year, also in 1968 only 6 more babies were born than the number of persons who died. The birth rate is somewhat lower than that for Bedfordshire, and for England and Wales. Deaths totalled 91, 6 more than in 1968.

The adjusted death rate was 12.1 per 1,000 population, slightly higher than the figure for England and Wales, which was 11.9 per 1,000 population. Two infants died under one year of age. There were no deaths from infectious disease, nor maternal deaths.

There is probably no significance in the lower birth rate and higher death rate as numbers involved are small. There is a considerable number of elderly people in the district, which would account for a high death rate.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28806207>

3. VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>					<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	45	41	86
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	2	3	5
Totals	..	..	..	..	47	44	91
Crude Birth Rate	..	..	17.8	per 1,000 home population			
Adjusted Birth Rate	..	..	13.2	" " "			
(The comparability factor for the district being 0.74)							
As compared with -							
Adjusted Rate for Bedfordshire			19.4	per 1,000 home population			
Rate for England and Wales	..		16.3	" " "			

<u>Still Births</u>					<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	1	2	3
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Totals	..	..	..	..	1	2	3
Still Birth Rate	..	..	32.0	per 1,000 total (live and still births)			
As compared with -							
Rate for Bedfordshire	..	..	10.1	" " "			
Rate for England and Wales	..	..	13.0	" " "			

<u>Deaths</u>					<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths in the District	..	..	..	..	30	38	68
Transferred into the District	..	..	..	..	10	13	23
Transferred from the District	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Totals	..	..	..	..	40	51	91
Crude Death Rate	..	..	17.8	per 1,000 home population			
Adjusted Death Rate	..	..	12.1	" " "			
(The comparability factor for the District being 0.68)							
As compared with -							
Adjusted Rate for Bedfordshire			10.1	per 1,000 home population			
Rate for England and Wales	..	..	11.9	" " "			

<u>Deaths of Infants under One year of age.</u>					<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Totals	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Infant Mortality Rate	..	..	22.0	per 1,000 related live births			
As compared with -							
Rate for Bedfordshire	..	..	14.6	" " "			
Rate for England and Wales	..	..	18.0	" " "			

<u>Deaths Connected with Childbirth</u>				
Maternal Mortality	..	..	..	NIL

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1969

Cause of Death.	Total all ages.		Under 4 weeks		4 weeks & under 1 year		Age in years												75 and over					
	M	F	M	F	M	F	1-4		5-14		15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		M	F
							M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F						
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	-	1																						
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	1		1																				
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	1	2													1						1			
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	1																			1	1		
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2																1			1			
Other malignant neoplasms	1	-																						
Other endocrine etc. diseases	1	-	1																1					
Other diseases of nervous system etc.	2	-																						
Ischaemic heart disease	14	14																						
Other forms of heart disease	7	9																						
Cerebrovascular disease	3	13																						
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	2																						
Influenza	1	-																						
Pneumonia	1	2																						
Bronchitis and emphysema	-	1																						
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-																						
Other diseases of digestive system	1	-																						
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-										1												
All other accidents	1	2																						
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	-	1																						
Total all causes.	40	51	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	1	3	3	13	9	20	36	

4. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA
Provided by the Bedfordshire County Council.

Ambulance Service.

The Bedfordshire County Council provides an Ambulance Service for the whole of the area of the Administrative County.

In addition to the transport of emergency cases, ambulance or sitting-case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from hospitals or clinics, when attendance is necessary for medical treatment.

The Ambulance Service also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious diseases.

Domiciliary Nursing and Midwifery Service
Health Visiting Service

Chief Nursing Officer: Miss W.Frost,
Health Department,
County Hall, Bedford.
Telephone - Bedford 63222.

The Ampthill Urban District is satisfactorily covered by Home Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting personnel, who operate under the supervision of the Chief Nursing Officer and her Assistants.

Home Help Service

Organiser: Mrs.V.M.Van Berckelaer,
County Hall, Bedford.
Telephone - Bedford 63222.

The Home Help Service is provided for the whole of the County. In households where assistance is needed arrangements are made for Home Helps to attend. The amount of help given varies in each case, according to the needs of the individuals assisted.

Child Health Clinic.

1 Dunstable Street, Ampthill: Friday afternoon, weekly
and
Friday morning, four weekly.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

(a) Water Supply

The water supply to the District is the responsibility of the Bedfordshire Water Board and a satisfactory and wholesome supply has been maintained throughout the year.

The Ampthill District is mainly supplied from the Clophill Source, with a small part from the Great Ouse Water Authority pipeline.

Chemical Analysis of Treated Water from Borehole Supplies (Average Analysis of Samples taken weekly)

<u>Treated Water leaving Waterworks</u>						<u>Clophill</u>
Turbidity (A.T.U)	..	..	..	..	..	1.8
Colour (Hazen Units)	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Reaction pH	..	..	..	..	..	7.86
Electric Conductivity (Reciprocal Megohms per c.c. at 20°C)	..	..	..	..	..	570
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	0.01
Nitrate Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	Less than 0.10
Chloride as Cl	..	..	..	..	..	32
Carbonate Hardness as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	..	206
Non-Carbonate Hardness as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	..	99
Total Hardness as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	..	305
Calcium as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	..	254
Magnesium as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	..	51
Free Carbon Dioxide	..	..	..	..	..	6
Sulphate as SO ₄	..	..	..	..	..	99
Iron as Fe	..	..	..	..	..	0.07
Lead, Copper, Zinc	..	..	..	..	..	None found
Sodium as Na	..	..	..	..	..	14
Potassium as K	..	..	..	..	..	4
Manganese as Mn	..	..	..	..	..	None found
Fluoride as F	..	..	..	..	..	0.36
Silica (Molybdate Reactive) as SiO ₂	..	..	..	..	..	18
Phosphate as PO ₄	..	..	..	..	..	Less than 0.10

Results in milligrams per litre

(b) Drainage and Sewerage

The Sewage Disposal Works are sited at Abbey Lane and consist of the following - Detritus and Sedimentation tanks, rotary percolating filters, humus tanks, storm water overflows and sludge beds. The treated effluent discharges into the "Running Waters" Brook, which enters the River Flitt.

A number of effluent samples taken by the River Board's Officers were found to be unsatisfactory and the Council agreed to the installation of upward flow clarifiers in the humus tanks.

The incidence of flooding during the year was far less marked due to the cleansing of main sewers by high pressure jetting.

(c) Rivers and streams

The only case of serious pollution reported was that at Running Waters brook, from a discharge from Doolittle Mill where poultry processing is carried out. Alternative schemes are being prepared by a firm of Consultant Engineers engaged by the Owner/Occupiers to obviate this nuisance in the near future.

(d) Cesspools, Pail Closets

No alteration to the numbers of cesspools and pail closets occurred during the year.

(e) Public Cleansing

Collection and disposal of refuse continues satisfactorily, but again it has not been possible to maintain a regular weekly collection due to sickness amongst staff and the inability to attract and maintain a suitable labour force.

The Council do not operate a cesspool cleansing service, occupiers of premises drained to cesspools and septic tanks make their own private arrangements for emptying.

(f) Salvage

It is still not possible to salvage wastepaper, due to labour difficulties and the economic state of the market does not make this a worthwhile proposition for this Authority.

(g) Sanitary Inspection of Area

The following is a summary of the sanitary and other defects dealt with during the year -

Premises with defective and insanitary closets	..	..	7
Premises with insanitary and defective drains	..	..	13
Premises with insufficient sanitary accommodation	..	..	1
Premises with insanitary and defective cesspools	..	..	-
Premises with defective windows, insufficient light and ventilation	..	..	2
Premises with defective floors	..	..	2
Dirty Premises	..	..	1
Dangerous structure	..	..	1
Accumulations of offensive matter	..	..	2
Unsound meat and other foods	..	..	15
Rooms disinfected for bed bugs etc. and infectious disease			-
Nuisance from rats and mice	..	..	105
Other dilapidations	..	..	-
Number of Statutory Notices served	..	..	-
Number of Informal Notices served	..	..	21
Number of defective premises	..	..	14

(h) Shops and Offices

No Statutory action was taken in connection with the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

(i) Caravans, Moveable Dwellings, Camping Sites etc.

Permission was granted for one moveable dwelling for an agricultural worker to be sited on a farm, for a temporary period only. The moveable dwelling was removed before the end of the year.

There are no permanent sites for moveable dwellings or camping situated within the Urban District.

(j) Smoke abatement

No complaints of smoke nuisance were received during the year.

(k) Disinfestation (Not rodent control)

No treatments were necessary.

6. HOUSING

Forty-nine private houses were completed and occupied, the majority of these being on the Oliver Street, Warren Farm and Ampthill House Estates.

The following Plans were approved under Building Regulations -

- 1 Dwelling and Garage
- 8 Alterations to Business Premises
- 40 Alterations to Domestic Premises
- 8 Private Garages
- 12 Conservatories and Porches
- 2 Carports
- 3 Recreational and Social Centres

Town and Country Planning

Sixty-nine Applications under the Town and Country Planning Act were received, of which 45 were approved, 5 refused, 6 withdrawn, 13 deferred.

Seven Applications under the Advertisement Regulations were received, three of which were refused and four approved.

7. RODENT CONTROL

The Council has continued to employ the retired Operator on a part-time basis, which has proved most satisfactory.

8. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Number of premises handling food and visits made thereto -

(a) <u>Shops</u>	<u>Premises</u>	<u>Visits Made</u>
1. Ice Cream Vendors	16	27
2. Bakers and Confectioners	7	14
3. Grocers	4	12
4. Fishmongers	1	6
5. General Stores	9	25
6. Butchers	5	18
7. Dairies and retail milk distributors	2	4
(b) <u>Vans, Stalls and Hawkers</u>	5	16
(c) <u>Catering Establishments</u>		
1. Restaurants and Cafes	3	12
2. Industrial Canteens	1	3
3. School Canteens	3	7
4. Hotels	1	3
5. Outside catering contractors	-	-
6. Fish and chip shops	1	6
7. Others	-	-
(d) <u>Manufacturing Establishments</u>		
1. Sausage Makers	5	18
2. Meat pie and cooked meat makers	5	18
3. Bakehouses	-	-
4. Ice Cream Makers	-	-
5. Confectionery Manufacturers	-	-
6. Others	-	-

(e) Milk Supply (Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1949-54)

Regular inspections have been carried out of the two retailers premises which were found to be satisfactory. Three dairies situated outside the district retail designated milk within the Urban area.

(f) Unfit Foods

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption -

270 lbs. Tinned Food and Packet Groceries
31 lbs. Bacon
68 lbs. Beef
6694 lbs. Chicken and Turkey

Tinned food and groceries which are usually condemned in small quantities are collected and buried at the Council's Refuse Tip. Condemned meat at the Butchers Shops is always stained with condemned meat dye before collection by processing firms.

(g) Butchers Shops (all registered under S.16 Food and Drugs Act 1955)

The five Butchers Shops have been regularly inspected and are maintained in a good condition, all complying with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

(h) Ice Cream Registrations

Fourteen premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, all of which are licensed to sell a pre-packed article. No samples were taken during the year by this Department.

(i) Food Hygiene Regulations

Regular inspections were carried out to ensure the Regulations were being complied with.

(j) Poultry Processing Establishments.

There is only one establishment within the Urban District where poultry processing is carried out. The number of birds processed during the year was 670,904 (Broilers 18,541, Hens 638,372, Turkeys 1,482 and Capons 12,509).

No regular routine inspection is carried out by the Council's Officers but spot inspections and checks are made. The staff employed at the Plant carry out their own routine inspections. No accurate records are kept on the number of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption but the weight of poultry condemned during the year by this Department was 6,694 lbs.

The actual number of visits made to the premises was 43 and the hygiene of the premises, management and employees is most satisfactory.

There are of course problems with regard to effluent, which have been mentioned elsewhere in this Report.

9. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Infectious diseases totalled 90 cases, of which 84 were due to measles. Immunisation is now available against this disease and it is hoped that in future years the incidence of this disease will be reduced.

(a) Notification by Age Groups

Disease	0 - 5	5 - 14	15 and over	Age unknown	Total
Measles	51	26	-	7	84
Scarlet fever	4	1	-	-	5
Dysentery	-	1	-	-	1

(b) Tuberculosis in Age Groups

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 34 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 65 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

Number on Register at End of Year

				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Pulmonary	..	..		3	2
Non-Pulmonary	..	..		-	2

10. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, Section 47

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act provides for the removal to Hospital or Part III accommodation on a Court Order, of sick or old people who cannot look after themselves.

It was not found necessary to use this legislation during 1969.

11. CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS

Public Health Act 1936., Section 85

Most of these cases are school children with verminous heads. When discovered they are treated by the Health Visitors as a routine matter.

12. PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

(a) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

	Number on Register	Number of -		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	3	10		
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	23	42		
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * excluding outworkers premises.	8	17		
Total	34	69		

* Institutions, Section 124 and sites of building operations and works of engineering construction, Section 127.

(b) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(if defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more 'cases').

Particulars	Number of cases		Defects to H.M. Inspector.	Found by H.M. Insp.	Number of cases in w which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied			
Want of Cleanliness (s.1)					
Overcrowding (s.2)					
Unreasonable temperature(s.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (s.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (s.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (s.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1			
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to utwork)					
Total	3	3			

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK

Sections 133 & 134

Nature of Work.	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwhole-some premises.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
Wearing apparel making etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
